



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE STATE'S ATTORNEY FOR HOWARD COUNTY

For Immediate Release:

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Frederick Man Sentenced for 2017 Home Invasion in Savage

A 22-year-old Frederick man was sentenced to six years in prison for a drug-related home invasion at a Savage residence that occurred last May. Diego R. Morales, of the 200 block of Wyngate Drive was sentenced in Howard County Circuit Court last Friday. On November 6, 2017, he pleaded guilty to one count of home invasion. Morales was one of three men who broke into an apartment, located in the 9000 block of Washington Street, on the morning of May 15, 2017.

During the plea hearing, Deputy State's Attorney Kim Y. Oldham told the court that the victim was lying in bed with her six-week-old infant when two male suspects entered her bedroom and pointed long guns at her while they stole her boyfriend's AR-15-style semi-automatic rifle and a 12-gauge shotgun, \$140 in currency and luxury-branded clothing accessories. The victim later discovered that a second shotgun was stolen and that the men had entered the residence through an open window after removing a window-mounted air conditioner found lying on the ground.

The woman told police that she recognized one of the burglars as an associate of her former neighbor, Diego Morales, who stood in the hallway outside of her bedroom. Based on the victim's identification of Morales and the second suspect, police placed them under surveillance prior to arresting them in Frederick on May 16 when they recovered one of the items stolen during the home invasion.

Judge William V. Tucker sentenced Morales to 20 years in prison, suspending all but six years. Upon his release, Morales will be placed on four years of supervised probation. The second suspect arrested with Morales, Neal Stevenson Hall, 18, also of Frederick, pleaded guilty to a single count of home invasion on December 6, 2017 and will be sentenced March 15. A third suspect has not been arrested but the investigation is ongoing.

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